$ PLAY UEC'S MONTHLY 50-50 GAME! $

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

Vol. 2 – No. 4 April, 1986

UFO BABIES TO CONVERGE ON PHILA.

Brotherly love city anticipates visit from "UnEarthly Children"

Rumors and reports from unrefutable sources point to an unprecedented gathering of "unearthly children" in the Northeast section of Philadelphia later this month.

"These children will be getting together on Saturday, April 19th at 1:00 p.m. at the Northeast Public Library at Cottman and Bustleton Avenues", a very reliable source told us over the phone. The source said he used psychic premonition, Tarot cards and winning lottery numbers to come to this startling prediction.

"We gather together once a month at least" said self proclaimed "unearthly child" Ted Slanivak. "We'll be discussing various activities planned, singing filks, selling merchandise, raising funds and generally having a good time. Oh and make sure you spell my name right".

Spokesmen from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasedena, California could not be reached for comment, but one anonymous source stated that this could be the biggest gathering of UFO babies since the death of Marilyn Monroe.

The group seems to partake in many strange rituals. One of these is the strange form of chanting known as the "Filksong". Another is the reading of tales known as "Madlibs" which have been known to border on the obscene. Also in evidence are many experiments in gravity alteration, for members only referred to as "heavy singles".

It is guaranteed by these "unearthly children" that all attending this mass assembly will enjoy themselves. It is not known whether these "unearthly children" are in fact UFO babies or only a religious group, but most experts agree that reports of Elvis' reappearance at the meeting are unreliable.

Plant attack baffles science

by Marty Slick

Mrs. Elizabeth Sweeney of New Orleans was startled to find her husband, Adolph, had apparently been attacked by a plant on her front porch.

"We found the plant in the ice last winter", Mrs. Sweeney told a reliable source. "It just seemed to pop open and scratch Adolph, that's all. He's been looking a bit green lately, but I'm sure he'll be fine".

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New test tells if you have lived before

UFO spotted stealing oil

Cruel parents force child to eat garbage

Rich widow marries her kidnapper

Lost boy found sleeping in gorilla's arms

Single women swapping men to find love

Convict runs swindle from prison cell

Why wimps are turning women on

"Does 'B' stand for butch?"

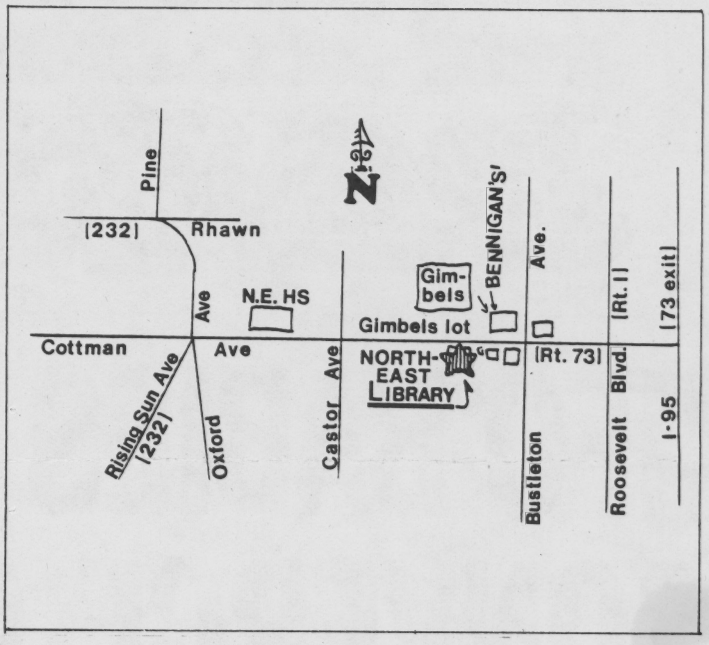
Our Next Meeting: Fun For All

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has agreed to stop by, so don't miss it! We will also be having the usual treats, such as the 50-50 game which last meeting had a whopping $29.50 jackpot despite less-than-capacity crowds. Who knows how much our winner could walk away with this time? Mike will once again co-ordinate a Doctor WHO story improv, and Wil's legendary and occasionally suggestive Mad-libs will once more threaten our sanity.

As filksinging & other similar stage antics have become a tradition at UEC meetings, we'll once again be presenting the opportunity for any of you to get on stage and get crazy. If you'd like preparation time, call us ahead of time; if you're hesitant, just jump on stage when the spirit moves ya. Now don't be bashful; when I was first dragged up on stage and had to 'sing', I was terrified--now you can't keep me off! (So quit trying.)

One more thing: to any of you who don't know us personally -- just say "HI"! Start talking about the weather, or the Sixers, or the polar ice caps. You'll be surprised how quickly you fit in! Hey, a year ago I was in your shoes; three months later I was in the High Council. So just say "Yo"; there's always more room at Bennigan's!



WHONews

by Shelby Wintergreen

By the time you read this, DOCTOR WHO will be back in production, "and, it seems, not a moment too soon!" The production shutdown has tried everyone's patience, and a 14-episode season is hardly sufficient, but it's better than nothing. Michael Grade and his band of bureaucrats will be watching the season and the ratings very carefully to determine whether the show will continue. For now, though, let's rejoice as work begins on the 23d season.

Producer JN-T describes the new season as "jokier and lighter," perhaps a reaction to accusations that the 22nd season relied too heavily on graphic violence.

Robert Holmes's six Gallifreyan episodes will now go out as two stories: a four-parter, reportedly called "Robots of Revlux", opening the season, then a two-parter bringing the season (and the series?) to a close. The next two-parter, provisionally titled "Planet of Sil", will see the departure of Peri, while Melanie will join the TARDIS crew in the third four-parter. This was originally to be a script by David Halliwell, a writer new to the series. That story, then one by Pip and Jane Baker, fell through, so a Chris Bidmead story commissioned for last season was repurchased. Now we hear that has fallen through, so the third story is still cloaked in mystery. So: just four stories, three four-parters followed by a two-parter.

The final story is shaping up in a very interesting manner, in that it will feature an old enemy and an old companion. Matthew Waterhouse will reprise his role as space-brat Adric in episodes 13 & 14. Apparently, Adric was rescued by the Master seconds before the destruction of the Earthshock freighter. The boy seeks revenge on the Doctor for leaving him to perish, and plays a key role in the Master's plan to destroy the Doctor and Gallifrey by sabotaging the planet's energy supply. Anthony Ainley has suggested ruefully that his character will succeed in "powering-down" Gallifrey, but this has not been confirmed nor denied.

One more thing. The Doctor WHO exhibit in Blackpool, England, is going on the road. Courtesy of BBC Enterprises, Lionheart Television and Monarch Publishing, the Blackpool exhibit will be making a whistle-stop tour of the U.S. PBS stations that broadcast Doctor WHO. The exhibit will stay for two days at each stop, admission will be only $2, and proceeds will go to that particular PBS station. Bessie, the Doctor's favorite roadster, will be there too. This is a terrific tour but it will be crowded; we'll let you know in plenty of time when it's scheduled to come this-a-way, and when it does we suggest you get there early--there will be lines! More info as we get it, so stay tuned. And don't eat too much red meat. We worry.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE is the official monthly newsletter of the UnEarthly Children. Dues are five dollars a year. Meetings are held monthly, usually on the third Saturday of each month.

The UEC is run by the High Council, which can be reached either by writing to: UnEarthly Children, Box 642, Richboro, PA. 18954, or by telephone to the following:

Wil Shrader, President, general information: (215) 343-5715

Cecily Chambers, membership: (215) 355-3992

Dorrie Sillman, Treasurer: (215) 357-7245

Michael J. Cohen, volunteer coordination: (215) 322-1677

Ted Slampyak, Editor: (215) 672-0324

and, though not on the High Council,
Cynthia Moreno, transport coordinator (CynDOT): (215) 322-1460

CONcerns

compiled by Shelby Wintergreen

18th-20th Apr: Doctor in Dairyland (no kidding!), Midway Motor Lodge, Milwaukee, WI. Jon Pertwee, Nicholas Courtney. Memberships limited to 750; price unknown. Info: SASE to Whoopla, Inc., PO Box 2129, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2129.

25th-27th Apr: Paradocs. Jon Pertwee, Pat Troughton (their puns are even worse than mine!). Memberships: ? Info: Paradocs, PO Box 8062, Belleville, IL 62222.

2nd-4th May: Dixie Trek 86, Atlanta, GA. Peter Davison, George Takei, others. Info: PO Box 546, Norcross, GA 30091.

10th-11th May: Creation/ Starlog Festival, Roosevelt Hotel, NYC. Nicholas Courtney, Mark Lenard. Info: Creation, Box 7155, Garden City, NY 11530; 516-747 2033.

23d-26th May: Spirit of Light con, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ. Colin Baker, Patrick Troughton, Bonnie Langford, Frazer Hines, Lalla Ward, Janet Fielding, John Nathan-Turner, others. Admission: until 1st May: $20 for any 1 day; $27.50 any 2 days; $32.50 all 3 days. After 1st May, add $5. Cabarets: Fri, Sat, Sun eves, Mon afternoon, $20 ($12.50 before 1st May with 3-day ticket). Cocktail party for 200, buffet luncheon, evening receptions all tba. 3-day ticket buyers get bonus Fri panel; order 3-day tix before 1st May and get a commemorative poster designed by Lalla Ward. Tentatively: costume contest Saturday at 4pm, a filk contest Sunday at 4pm, and videos all night, and only at night. Guest panels start at 10am each day. Tix soon available from Ticketron. The hotel is two blocks away from the train station; con rates are $65/sgl, $70/dbl, $75/trpl, $80/quad. Save your pennies for THIS convention!! Info: Spirit of Light Enterprises, 4805 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60641; 312-283 DWHO.

19th-20th July: Creation, Phila. Centre Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. No guests announced yet. Info:Creation,address above.

25th-27th Jul: Atlanta Fantasy Fair. Terry Nation, Frank Kelly Freas, Ralph Bakshi, Steve Jackson, Boris Vallejo,others. Memberships: ?? Info: PO Box 566, Marietta, GA 30061.

1st-3d Aug: TARDISCON '86, Adam's Mark Hotel, St Louis, MO. Mark Strickson, Frazer Hines, Sarah Sutton, John Nathan-Turner. The North American Time Festival. Memberships: $36 (for 3 days). Info: TARDISCON, Box 39305, St Louis, MO 63139.

28th-30th Nov: TARDIS 23, Hyatt Regency-Downtown, Chicago, IL. Guests tba. The traditional big Thanksgiving WHO con. Info: Spirit of light, address above.

UEC NEWS

Okay, first the vital stats. Cecily informs us that membership in this crazy thing called the UnEarthly Children is around 335 people, and on the rise! We had many new members join up at the DWFCA festival, and I'd like to welcome those people to the club!

Set aside Saturday, July 12th for the UEC Birthday Party, once again at the Middletown Grange Fairgrounds in Wrightstown, PA. And are we gonna have FUN! (That's not a question -- we ARE.) There'll be filks & skits (so start writin' and rehearsin'; believe me, the act is twice as fun when you're in it!), cricket and cuisine, and what's this I've heard about Jello wrestling? Also, we'll be having a chance for you to bid for pies to be thrown into the face of your favorite (?) High Councillor. I'm not so sure I like that idea. Details and events are still being worked on, so stay tuned.....

The sun beats down on a hot heavy asphalt lot filled with rows of tables on which is an eclectic assortment of old and new merchandise. What could it be? Well, it could be a flea market.(Okay, it IS a flea market. Ten points, and on to Arlene.) If you're the flea market type, you have nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, we could use you! How'd you like to man a UEC WHO merchandise table ~~in searching heat~~ on a pleasant afternoon? Refreshments will be provided, and you'll have fun too. So contact the High Council, okay? Great!

OH, before I forget, We in the High Council wish to thank and commend Renee Robertson, who had to nigh-impossible chore of waiting on a whole slew of us at Po' Folks at Bensalem Plaza last month after the meeting. Ms. Robertson, with no prior warning, had to cope with loud, unruly, and in some cases highly mobile Children (that's us). Once again, our thanks.

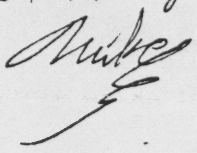
How many times have you been at a con, felt pangs of hunger, only to turn into a different sort of internal feeling when you saw what was being sold and the prices thereof. Or how about a place to rest your feet. "Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name"-- the UEC's answer to Cheers is coming to the Memorial day Spirit of Light con. We'll be having a con suite, where you can rest yourself and get a bite to eat. For only $3 (that's a dollar a day; you could pay that much for a button.), you're entitled to snacks at no additional charge, a place to 'get away from it all', and a great way to get together with other UECers. Note, this is not crash-space; the suite will be closed at night. Also note that only club members can get in on this (but we're not the only club running this suite). If you're interested in this wonderful service, you can order your advance ticket now.

Okay, I know this is getting excruciatingly long, so I'll just say one more thing and then shut up.(Do I hear throngs of cheers?) On Saturday, May 10th, the New Jersey Astronomical Association will be having a Doctor WHO day! There will be a casual picnic-like environment with astronomical talk and fun going down, and in the evening the kind telescopists(?) will be showing us actual glimpses of COMET HALLEY! (Remember: rhyms with 'alley') If you're as much an astronomy freak as I am you won't want to miss this! For info, call TARDIS Tours at (215) 868-8342.

Okay, so now I'm finished. Are you happy now?

The UnEarthly Children would like to thank those who worked the March Creation con: Tom Beck, Patricia Betz, Cathy Boudreau, Kay E. Brent, Cecily A. Chambers, Steve Cluck, Betsy Anne Cordrey, Kathy Fairchild, Dave Feldman, Michael Halliday, Rick Hochman, Dave Kienzle, Rosemarie La Maida, Doris Lytwyn, Maria Raia, Peggy E. Seymour, Barb Shewchuk, Wil Shrader, Sydney Shrader, Dorrie Sillman, Meg Sillman, Greg Simpson, Ted Slampyak, Dave Smith, Amy Sutter. Most of these people paid to get into the convention and still worked part-time. Were it not for the outstanding efforts of these UEC/PoP volunteers, the con could not have run smoothly. Thank you all for making my first stint as convention volunteer coordinator bearable. You're the best --

so thanks again!



And while we're thanking folks, let's not forget the volunteers who did the WHYY fundraiser: Cecily, Andrea Cherry, Mary Campbell, Betsy, Donna Cunningham, Karen Emerle, Sandor Flitter, Mike, Jen Kampf, Dave, Rob Malinowski, Audrey McLean, Fred Mitchell, Cynthia Moreno, Phyllis Nagler, Christine Nelson, Maria, Bruce Rowe, Cheryl Rowe, Peggy, Jane Shrader, Wil, Meg, Ted and Amy. Your help is always much appreciated.

FILK

HELP ROMANA
(To: Help Me Rhonda)

Since the TARDIS broke down, I've been going out of my head
Its not hard to tell that all the major circuits are dead
This happens all the time
A TARDIS tech now would be fine
So Won't you help, Romana
Help me to get the TARDIS to start.

(Chorus)
Help Romana help help Romana
Help Romana help help Romana
Help Romana help help Romana
Help Romana help help Romana
Help Romana help help Romana
Help Romana help help Romana
Help me to get the TARDIS to start.

On the way to Brighton, the cloister bells began to ring
As I ran towards the console half a dozen things went ping.
Romana knows the reasons why,
You'll give the Gallifreyan try.
Help Romana to get the TARDIS to start.
(chorus)

By Peggy E. Seymour, Amy F. Sutter, Betsy Anne Cordrey, Sydney E. Shrader, Audrey McLean, Nathaniel Koffler and Louren Janoff

MARCH MEETING: NOSTALGIA, CASH & CHATTER

by Shelby Wintergreen

OK, so the conspiracy theory goes out the window. The weather on 15th March was just fine, thank you. As was our one-time-only excursion into the UEC's past.

Yes, skeptics and cynics insisted 'twould never happen, but we returned to old stamping grounds for the March meeting: the infamous, inconvenient Bensalem Library.

The hootenanny kicked off with a brief reprise of the March 1985 meeting, 'cause we'd all enjoyed it so much. Having succeeded in perplexing everyone, we followed with that legendary tape of Wil's and Cecily's appearance on a Jersey cable talk show, with camerawork by member Michelle London. The closeups alone were worth the trip!

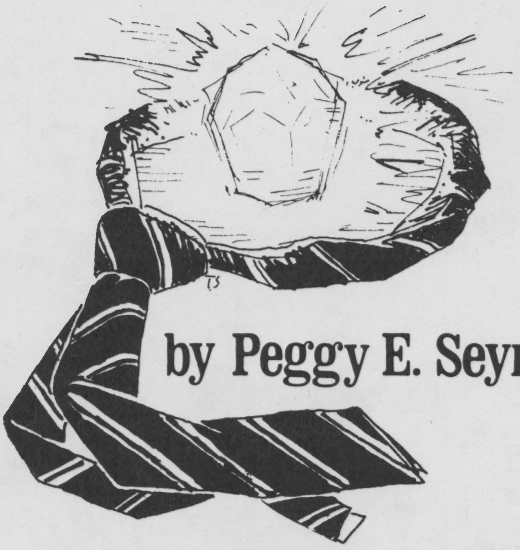
Our long-awaited announcement of Spirit of Light - Memorial Day info (see CONews) was the hit of the afternoon, the miss being my participation in our grand singalong: The filk "Convention Life" printed in the March newsletter was sung by its writers, Amy, Betsy, Peggy, Kim, Ted and me, along with Cecily, Wil and The Crowd. Cecily and Amy then performed a filk to the tune of "At the Zoo".

Cynthia showed up.

Our record 50-50 jackpot of $29.50 was awarded to James C. Armstrong, Jnr, who promptly donated his winnings back to the UEC to help with expenses for the press conference at DWFCA-Trenton.

Dinner at Po' Folks was a bit of a letdown, but this month we'll be back home at Bennigan's. You're invited, by the way.

We'll see you on the 19th at the Northeast Library -- please? If you need a ride, call Cynthia Moreno at 215-322 1460. And please introduce yourself to the High Council if this is your first meeting. We want to get to know you!!



JUST A FEW MOMENTS, PLEASE ..... WITH

Mark Strickson

by Peggy E. Seymour

I am going to stray from the standard interview format of questions/answers for this piece. This interview was conducted as a more or less informal conversation, in Philadelphia, with Mark Strickson. Since it was an informal conversation, the train of thought wanders a bit, so this article will wander a bit.

The usual questions were thrust upon the poor fellow.....So here goes.....

How old are you? "I was born 6-April-1959... and I don't lie about my age!"

On "Doctor Who" , which villain was your favourite ? "The Daleks are great. You could improvise with them...The voice is totally seperate from the machine. The guy in the machine has to concentrate on that [the Dalek] and the guy with the voice can say what he wants to. Its really nice because in "Doctor Who" things go wrong all the time. With the Daleks you can be...creative. Perhaps that's the wrong word. You can panic together."

Which was your favourite episode/story?
"My favourite story is the first story [Mawdryn Undead]. I always say it because I had more lines. Its not a stupid thing to say because the more lines you have, the easier it is, the more relaxed you are. You have more time to be on the studio floor. If you have a couple of scenes, and you're sitting in your dressing room all day, to do a couple of scenes, you get out there and the nerves go and by the time you have finished the scene, they've settled down and its all over. The waiting game is always a very difficult one."

Which was your least favourite?
"Oh, that's easy...."Terminus". It had nothing to do with anything, beyond Sarah.It was her "write-out" story. Dismal, dismal story about lepers on a ship. Dark grey sets. I just thought that it was important, certainly in "Doctor Who", to be visually very good to look at. It's good to have variety and there is no variety in "Terminus". For four episodes you were looking at these dismal grey sets with miserable people with leprous sores all over."

Crawling around in air ducts?
"Those airducts were extraordinary because we actually filmed at Pinewood Film Studios. They had this set built that was like exactly what you saw. It was actually airducts. I wore through a complete pair of trousers. I had to have my costume replaced. I had scabs on my knees from crawling on my knees. The cameraman was in the airduct with you as well. It was terrrible. After the end of it, Janet and I couldn't walk.....One of the questions people ask me is 'you must have enjoyed it with Janet in the airducts with a short skirt on?' You should have felt my knees. I was worried about my knees. It was misery."

Mark Strickson vs. Turlough
"I'm nothing like Turlough. I'm a quiet, gentle and warm person. I hope I am, anyway. I don't feel like Turlough. I don't go around being nasty to people."

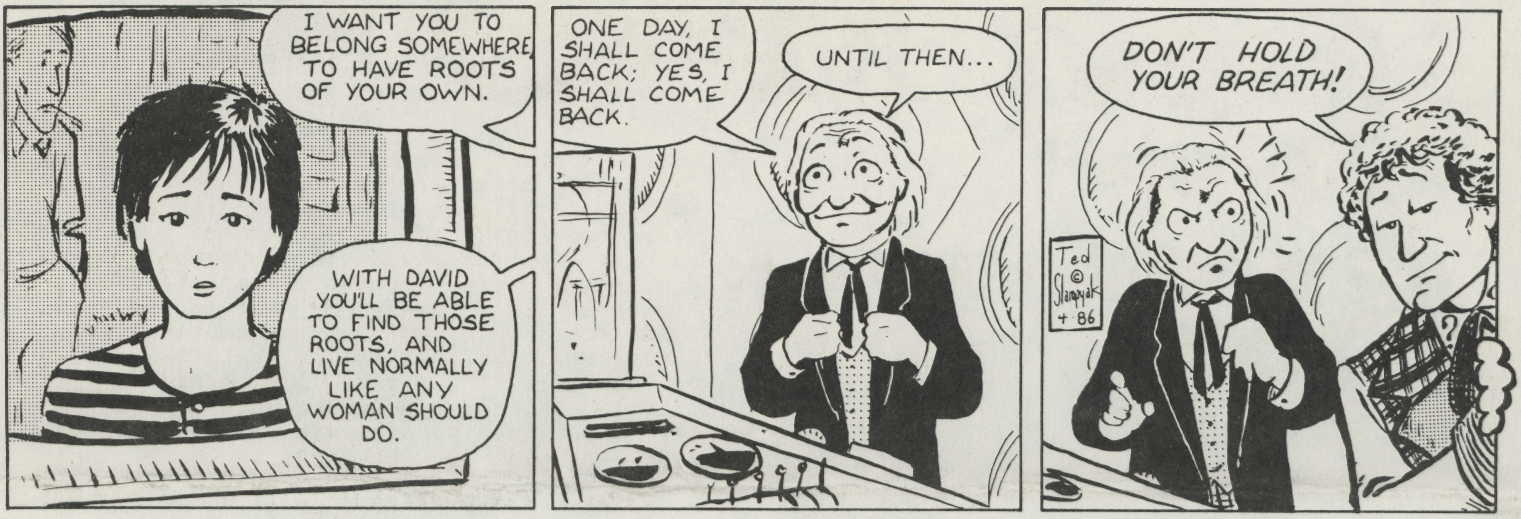
And now a bit of free text. Hang in there. There is much more to this but it would run a bit longer than the editor would appreciate. So if there are no overly loud objections, I have a little commentary (if you do object... too late you are already reading it).

I found Mr. Strickson to be honest and forthright, which I find to be commendable qualities. (I know, you didn't ask for my opinion but it is my column). He is entertaining and also serious. He is a trained musician, playing the French Horn (which he did in Chicago caberet and it was wonderful) and he enjoys singing English Folksongs. He also plays the piano for pleasure. He is extremely aware of the world around him and is greatly concerned about the future. He hopes to be able to do something positive in this world (and with his determination, I feel certain that he will suceed). In the talk session, at a Creation convention in Philadelphia, he was asked to "air" some of his views, and he did. He is not afraid to speak his mind nor will he shy away from his opinions, even if it is not a sympathetic audience to his way of thinking. I do wish Mr. Strickson much luck, in all his endeavours. And publically thank him for the opportunity to have this conversation with him.

Post Scriptum:
I was recently in New York City for a Creation Convention, which Mr. Strickson was a guest at. Here are a few tidbits I picked up. He is currently reheasing for 'David Copperfield' (by the same people who did 'Oliver Twist" for PBS). He will play the character Markum, who is a drunkard. He is also preparing to direct/produce/act in a play called 'Everyman',which is a medieval morality play. His acting in it will entail the presentation of the prologue and the epilogue. He has no plans, at the moment, for working in the States.

Who's On First©

by Ted Slampyak



FELLOW CLUBS

The following list is provided to those of you who are interested in joining other area fan clubs. All are involved in tne NorthEast Matrix (NEM) and we recommend each of them. Also, all have regular meetings and newsletters and annual dues of $6 .

The Prydonians of Prynceton
Gallifrey East
359 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 921-8148

meetings on first Saturday of each month

The Jersey Jagaroth
51 Mt. Pleasant Rd.
Morristown, NJ 07960
(201) 895-3260

meetings on second Saturday of each month.

Gallifreyan Embassy of Long Island
232 Hoke Ave.
Oceanside, NY 11572
(516) 766-6127

TARDIS Tours
P.O.Box 1064
Bethlehem, PA 18016
(215) 868-8342

first meeting March 8th

These are the OFFICIAL Matrix-member Doctor WHO fan clubs in this area. Look into 'em! WE like 'em!

who wares

The following items are available by mail order:

Logo T-shirt, white on black, sizes S, M, L, XL, $6 each plus $1.25 p&h

Police Box T-shirt, white on royal blue, sizes S, M, L, XL, $6 each plus $1.25 p&h

Buttons:
GOD SAVE THE DOCTOR (in Olde English script)
BRING BACK COLIN
JAMIE: KILTED WONDER
I SURVIVED VALLEY FORGE
each $1 plus $.30 p&h. If you order your buttons with a T-shirt, you can save the $.30 postage costs for the buttons.

We also have some exclusive photos of various stars. Please inquire.

The UnEarthly Children logo button can be obtained by new members by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope or with merchandise ordered. It can also be picked up at the UEC table at cons or our monthly meetings.

Send your check, payable to The UnEarthly Children, to:

UEC Merchandise
P.O. Box 642
Richboro, PA 18954

THE UNEARTHLY CHILDREN

P.O. BOX 642
RICHBORO, PA 18954

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ARE YOU SEEING RED?! If there's a red circle on your mailing label, it's time to renew! If you don't, this is your last newsletter. Just a friendly reminder!